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Beginning tomorrow, Feb. 1, and continuing through the entire month of February, Regents' staff will travel the state, presenting school counselor workshops on successful use data from a new national assessment designed to help 8th and 10th grade students prepare for college or the workforce. (See attached schedule for dates and locations in your area.)

The name of the outreach program is "Educational Planning Assessment System," or EPAS.

EPAS Background

With the creation of the Board of Regents' new college admissions standards, comes an important responsibility to help students prepare for the rigors of a college education. To do so, the Board of Regents has implemented a new national program known as the "Educational Planning Assessment System," or EPAS, designed and administered by the ACT college testing service. EPAS assesses 8th and 10th grade student skills in English, math, reading and science reasoning. The program addresses student academic preparation and assists students and parents in identifying career and educational options. It helps establish goals related to those options and determines academic courses needed to reach those goals.

While the Regents new *Master Plan for Public Postsecondary Education* raises expectations, EPAS will provide middle school and high school students the additional academic support to help meet those expectations. Every school district in Louisiana volunteered to participate in this Regent-sponsored program. As a result, almost 100,000 eighth and tenth grade students statewide are taking part in EPAS this academic year.

Louisiana Board of Regents for Higher Education

(State's policy-making and coordinating board for all public postsecondary education)